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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: John Colucci, et al.

Serial No.: 10/542,684

Case: MC065YP

Art Unit:
1626

Filed: July 19, 2005

Examiner:
Freistein, A.B.

For: IRREVERSIBLE CASPASE-3 INHIBITORS AS
ACTIVE SITE PROBES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This communication is in response to the restriction requirement dated May 9, 2007, setting forth a shortened statutory period for response ending June 9, 2007. This application relates to irreversible caspase-3 inhibitors as active site probes.

Claims 1 to 21 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner has required restriction of Claims 1 to 21 and an election of one of **Group I** to **Group VI** as outlined in the Restriction Requirement dated May 9, 2007. **Group I** is hereby elected without traverse. If required, Applicants also hereby elect the specie of Claim 18. This election is being made with the understanding that Claims 12, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 depending from product claims subsequently found to be allowable will be rejoined pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 821.04.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

By Liaia Davies Date 5/29/2007

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Any additional fees required in connection with this Response may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Date: May 29, 2007